Captain’s Corner
by RACES Captain Ken Bourne, W6HK, Chief Radio Officer

CLEF

A c[em] is a sign placed at the beginning of a musical staff to determine the pitch of the notes. But I’m not talking about music. I’m talking about the acronym CLEF that I just invented, to help us, as RACES members, to be better users and “appreciators” of amateur radio. In my way of thinking, CLEF means Curiosity, Love, Enthusiasm, and Fascination. We need all of those attributes to be good (and happy) hams and RACES members.

Curiosity causes us to wonder. Radio propagation is an exciting mystery. How does a radio signal go from one spot to another, whether it’s just a few feet or thousands of miles? How do antennas work? What are the different modes that we can use in RACES, or just in the enjoyment of ham radio in general? What kinds of test equipment would help us keep our equipment in working order? What do we need to know in order to use such instrumentation? Questions are endless!

Curiosity leads toward fascination. As we search for the answers to our questions, we learn about technology. The more we learn, the more fascinat[ing] it becomes, and we want to keep learning. It’s so important to subscribe to ham magazines, such as QST and CQ, and read books on radio technology. The authors are eager to teach us new things, and the more we read, the smarter we get, and the more our fascination grows.

As we learn more and become more fascinated with what we are discovering, our enthusiasm grows, not only for learning more but also for applying what we learn, in home-brewing equipment, constructing antennas, perfecting the appearance and operating ease of our ham shacks and mobile installations, etc.

If we stop right there with curiosity, fascination, and enthusiasm, we are simply narcissistic nerds, focusing only on ourselves. One more attribute is needed—love. We are RACES members because we love others. We want to help them when disasters strike. But we improve our capabilities for helping others when we become more knowledgeable about our communications equipment and modes of operation. What we learn because of curiosity, fascination, and enthusiasm needs to be shared with our fellow RACES members—and that’s also part of love—love for our fellow members and love for the people we serve during emergencies and disasters.

There is a growing concern that many of the more than 100,000 new hams who got their licenses during the past 10 years did so primarily to have a tool to use during an emergency or disaster. The only radio so many of them have is a cheap handheld, which they purchase and put away in a drawer. Some of them join an EmComm unit, but only use their cheap handhelds to check into an occasional net. They lack curiosity, fascination, enthusiasm, and the love of sharing their technical knowledge with their fellow hams and EmComm members—in the tradition of amateur radio. All RACES members should strive to be traditional “CLEF” hams.
CalSIEC Offers OEC AUXCOMM Course

The State of California is offering an AUXCOMM course on January 16-17, 2016, from 0700 to 1700 hours each day, at the San Diego County Operations Center. The DHS Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) allows states to teach this course through their Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC). The class is taught by the California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CalSIEC).

Prerequisites include:
- IS-100B, IS-200B, IS-700A, IS-800B (you must have the latest version)
- A signed copy of your FCC Amateur Radio License
- Past experience in auxiliary emergency communications
- A desire to learn how to work with COMLs in a NIMS/ICS environment

Volunteer emergency communications operators/groups, using amateur radio, have been providing backup communications to public safety for nearly 100 years. Event planners, public-safety officials, and emergency managers at all levels of government utilize their services. Often, amateur radio services have been used reliably when other forms of communications have failed or have been disrupted. Today nearly all the States/territories have incorporated some level of participation by amateur radio auxiliary communication operators into their SCIPS.

This workshop is designed for those auxiliary emergency communicators and groups who volunteer to provide backup emergency radio communications support to public safety and emergency response professionals and their agencies. Typically this includes amateur radio and Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams (REACT) communicators but may include other volunteer emergency communicators.

The course focuses on auxiliary communications interoperability, the relationship between the COML and the volunteer, emergency operation center etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, FCC rules and regulations, auxiliary communications training and planning, certification and accreditation, and emergency communications deployment. It is intended to supplement and standardize an operator’s experience and knowledge of emergency amateur radio communications in a public-safety context.

Each workshop is limited to 30 attendees. It is an intensive 20-hour weekend course with facilitated lecture and student exercises. This course builds in time for interactive discussions and exercises. Because the content is NIMS-compliant, this offering is not modified for local circumstances. The course content includes:
- Introduction
- The Communications Unit and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- AEC Roles and Responsibilities
- Interoperable Communications
- Incident Communication
- Incident Radio Communications Plan
- Incident Communications Center
- Team management and accountability
- Resources
- Intrastate and interstate radio networks
- Final exercise exam

This course will be taught by Jeff Lee, KF6NXQ, and Dennis Smiley, KI6ZLL, both of whom are recognized by OEC and the State of California as AUXCOMM instructors. Applicants should email copies of their certificates for the prerequisite courses, and a signed copy of their FCC Amateur Radio license, to Jeff Lee at ACS@kf6nxq.net. Complete applications must be received by December 16th, 2015.

FEMA App for Apple/Android/Blackberry

The FEMA app for Apple, Android, and Blackberry mobile devices receives alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations across the U.S., and provides information on how to stay safe. You can upload and share photos of damage and recovery efforts. You can save a custom list of the items in your family’s emergency kit, as well as the places you will meet in case of an emergency. You can locate and receive driving directions to open shelters and disaster recovery centers. Safety tips teach you how to stay safe before, during, and after 20 types of hazards, including floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes. You can easily access DisasterAssistance.gov to apply for federal disaster assistance.
OCRACES Holiday Dinner: December 7th

The annual OCRACES Holiday Dinner will be on Monday, December 7, 2015, at 6:30 PM, at Ricardo’s Don José, 1230 E. Katella Avenue, in Orange. There will be no regular meeting or net on December 7th. Cost is $20.00 per person, including tip, not including alcoholic beverage. The RSVP deadline expired on December 1st. The next regular OCRACES meeting will be on Monday, January 4, 2016, at 7:30 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange.

Welcome to OCRACES

by OCSD/Communications & Technology Program Support Manager Delia Kraft, KF6UYW

Congratulations Lee Kaser, KK6VIV! I’m delighted to announce Lee Kaser as the newly promoted OCSD Communications & Technology Division Emergency Communications Manager. Lee has been with the Orange County Sheriff’s Department for the past eight years, working at the Countywide Coordination Communications Center known as Control One. He has risen through the ranks up to Supervising Communications Coordinator, overseeing staff in the day-to-day operations involving interoperable and mutual-aid coordination between law, fire, public works, and lifeguard agencies. Lee is also a U.S. Army veteran trained in tactical satellite communications as well as defense messaging services, while stationed in both South Korea and at the Pentagon.

I’ve known Lee for eight years, and I can truly say “OCRACES is in good hands.” He has an extensive background as a trainer and training supervisor. His enthusiasm, leadership skills, and integrity make him an excellent choice to lead the OCRACES members. When he’s not at work, he enjoys snowboarding, traveling, photography, collecting records, and playing the guitar.

Running Simplex and 10-Meter/6-Meter Nets

We tried running a simplex net on November 23, 2015, from Loma Ridge on the output of the OCRACES 2-meter repeater. Unfortunately, we were not heard by at least two stations in South County and one station in northwestern Orange County. Thus, running simplex on a Monday night is not advisable, when all participants need to receive announcements. Therefore, we will occasionally run a simplex net on Saturday at 10:30 AM, immediately following the 10:00 AM 40-meter ACS net (7250 kHz), when net control is at a high location such as Loma Ridge, and an alternate net control (or relay station) is at a high location in South County (such as Signal Peak).

When running net control on the 29.64 MHz repeater from Loma Ridge, using the Elecraft K3 transceiver, be sure to reduce the RF power output to 10 watts or less. Due to a glitch in the K3, which might be caused by a firmware error, power output reduces substantially with each subsequent transmission when running FM at full power (100 watts) or any power above 12 watts, until there is no power output at all. Also, be aware that the timer on the 29.64 MHz repeater is very short, and reset time is somewhat long. The K3 FM output power problem also occurs on 6 meters.

We hope eventually that our 10-meter Cushcraft AR-10 Ringo antenna will be installed on the EOC roof, so that we can run our 10-meter FM nets with the Yaesu FT-8900 quad-band transceiver. We use that transceiver (with a 6-m/2-m/70-cm triband antenna) for running our 6-meter nets, although the Elecraft K3 can also be used on 6 meters (any mode) and is programmed for use on the 6-meter FM repeater. We also have an M2 HO horizontally polarized loop antenna for use with the 2-meter module in the K3. The M2 HO also needs to be installed on the EOC roof. The K3 could then be used on any 2-meter mode. San Diego County RACES has expressed an interest in running 2-meter SSB tests with us, and the K3 with its 2-meter module would be ideal for these tests.

Farewell to Bill Borg, KG6PEX

Bill Borg, KG6PEX, is leaving OCRACES for other pursuits. We wish him the very best, and thank him for his service in our RACES unit. He was an excellent radio operator during nets, drills, and activations, and enthusiastically participated in our events.
W6RTR Hides in Huntington Beach

MESAC Member Eric Bowen, W6RTR, was the fox on Monday, November 9, 2015, on the monthly cooperative T-hunt. He turned on the fox box at about 7:20 PM, at a small park in Sunset Beach. Ken Bourne, W6HK, and his son Don, KB6TVK, were the first to find the fox. They started at Talbert Avenue and Beach Boulevard in Huntington Beach after running the OCRACES net, and did not detect a signal at first. Other hunters also did not hear the fox. Then Gordon West, W6NOA, announced on the 449.100 MHz repeater that he had a bearing slightly north of straight west with his tower-mounted beam, from his home location near the Orange County Fairgrounds. That helped the hunters to get into an area where they were able to get a bearing. Second to find the fox was Patrick Williams, KJ6PFW. Third was Ron Allerdice, WA6CYY. Bob McFadden, KK6CUS, came in fourth. After the hunt, the hunters walked over to the nearby Harbor House Café for some good food and conversation.

The next cooperative T-hunt will be held on Monday, December 14th, immediately following the OCRACES 2-meter net (approximately 7:20 PM). The fox will transmit on the input (146.295 MHz) of the 146.895 MHz repeater. Hunters will compare bearings via the 449.100 MHz repeater, and are encouraged to beacon their positions via APRS throughout the hunt. The fox will be Fran Needham, KJ6UJS, hiding in Central County (which includes Santa Ana, Orange, and Garden Grove), on paved, publicly accessible property. No fees will be required to drive directly to the fox.

To resolve scheduling conflicts with RACES meetings, events, and County holidays, we are moving all cooperative T-hunts in 2016 to the third Monday, except in October, when the hunt will be on the second Monday. We will no longer need to skip the hunt in September, since there will not be a conflict on the third Monday. (The City/County RACES & MOU meeting has been moved from the third Monday in September to the third Monday in October.)

The cooperative T-hunts provide excellent practice in working together to find the source of interference. The hunts are not official RACES events, so DSW (Disaster Service Worker) coverage does not apply. Please drive carefully!

Fox-hunt loops and beams are available from Arrow Antenna and HRO. A 4-MHz offset attenuator, also available from Arrow Antenna and HRO, can be useful when close to the fox, to prevent receiver overload. An all-mode transceiver is quite useful, allowing hunters to switch to the SSB or CW mode for detecting extremely weak signals, or to switch in a built-in attenuator, reduce RF gain, or tune slightly off frequency when dealing with extremely strong signals. Some hunters use the DF2020T radio direction finder kit, which is a Doppler system available from Global TSCM Group, Inc. (http://www.kn2c.us). A very similar system is the new MFJ-5005 Doppler direction finder. Other useful tools are the Foxhunt app for iPhones and the Triangulate app for Android phones. For some excellent information on T-hunting, see http://www.homingin.com.

2016 City/County RACES & MOU Meetings

The next City/County RACES & MOU meeting, which was originally scheduled for Monday, January 18, 2015, has been moved to Monday, February 8, 2016, at 7:15 PM, at 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, in Orange. We plan to distribute the 2016 Official RACES Guidebook (“Yellow Book”) at the February 8th meeting. Instead of holding these three-times-a-year meetings in January, May, and September, we will return to a previous schedule of every February, June, and October. The June meeting will be on June 13, 2016, and the October meeting will be on October 17, 2016. This means that the February and June meetings will be on the second Monday and the October meeting will be on the third Monday. (The second Monday in October is a County holiday.)
OCRACES Participates at MARRITE

County of Orange RACES participated in the 2015 Multi-Agency Regional Radio Interoperability Training Exercise (MARRITE) on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at the Huntington Beach parking lot in Huntington Beach. Known in previous exercises as the “Radio Rodeo,” this annual event was hosted by the California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CalSIEC) Southern Planning Area (SPA), consisting of the 12 counties comprising the southern section of the state. Representative agencies from four of these counties—Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino, as well as the State—participated in this exercise.

Setup began before 0700 hours, with participant briefing at 0830 and the Radio Roll Call after 0900. The event concluded after 1100, followed by viewing of participants’ vehicles and equipment.

The exercise provided an environment and opportunity for Responder Agencies to test their public-safety interoperable radio communications equipment and procedures in an environment simulating an actual incident. Local agencies were tested on their ability to respond effectively to a local incident requiring the deployment, setup, and operation of mobile communications resources.

Tom Riley, K6TPR, drove the OCRACES van to the site. Other OCRACES members arrived at the site to assist in setting up and operating the equipment, including Chief Radio Officer Ken Bourne, W6HK (OCRACES Activity Coordinator, COML Assistant), Radio Officer Harvey Packard, KM6BV (OCSD Command Post operator in Samantha II trailer), Assistant Radio Officer Bob McFadden, KK6CUS (in charge of the OASIS Trailer and event documentation), Fran Needham, KJ6UJS, Kenan Reilly, KR6J (Operations/Dispatch Chief/COML), Brad Russo, KB6GPM, and Assistant Radio Officer Tom Tracey, KC6FIC. Also at the event was Ray Grimes, N8RG, who displayed the Orange County Sheriff’s Museum’s classic 1962 Chrysler Newport patrol car. (Ray is a Founder/Co-Director of the Museum.) City RACES units at MARRITE included Costa Mesa (MESAC), Cypress/Los Alamitos/Seal Beach, Huntington Beach, Irvine (IDEC), Laguna Beach, and Orange (COAR). Amateur Radio roll call began with the local City RACES units as well as the OCSD Samantha II trailer, followed by a roll call by Cal OES on the Cactus Intertie system and then by OCRACES on Orange County repeaters.

SKYWARN Recognition Day: December 4-5

The National Weather Service and Southwest California SKYWARN will once again participate in SKYWARN Recognition Day by operating the ham radio station located at the NWS office at 11440 W. Bernardo Court, Suite 230, in San Diego. Operation is planned from 4:00 PM Friday, December 4, 2015, until 4:00 PM Saturday, December 5th. Operators are needed for radio, log entries, etc., on HF, VHF, and UHF.

Contact Jim Campbell, WB6ZPB, at wb6zpb@yahoo.com to reserve a time slot(s) for the event. Please indicate your most preferred time(s) by a secondary choice. NWS will do their best to arrange operators in a sensible manner.

There is a possibility of a BBQ in the parking lot afterward, starting at about 4:00 PM. Included would be burgers, hot dogs, and maybe other food. The likelihood of a BBQ depends on how many people express an interest. Please indicate when you contact Jim, if you would like to attend the BBQ.
RACES/MOU News from Around the County

Fountain Valley RACES

Members of Fountain Valley Amateur Communications Team (FACT) (Fountain Valley RACES) will participate in the Tree Lighting at the Park event on Saturday, December 5, 2015.

Huntington Beach RACES

Huntington Beach RACES members participated in SurfCity 10 2015 on Sunday, October 25, 2015. This was a good training exercise for the big SurfCity Marathon coming up in February 2016. There were about 5,500 runners at the October 25th event. At the marathon there will be about 20,000 runners. The crowds, issues, setup, and communications are the same.

Tri-Cities RACES

On Saturday, November 7, 2015, several Tri-Cities RACES members helped with a CERT Radio Exercise. CERT President Daryl Yee Litt, KJ6FCC, invited RACES members to help teach new CERT members how to use a two-way radio, some for the first time. Others assisting included Ed Ginn, K6MFI, Drew Holtz, KI6IZD, Phil Greenberg, W6SOI, Dwayne Anstead, KJ6FPV, and Catherine Croissette, KJ6LWM.

Members of Tri-Cities RACES are asked to sign up for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and other events on Saturday, December 5, 2015, from 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM. About 12 or 13 RACES members are needed to assist at the level requested by the Orange County Sheriff’s Department. The Christmas Tree Lighting event runs from 4:00 PM until 5:30 PM, starting at the Historic Town Center Park, 31852 El Camino Real, San Juan Capistrano. After that is an event at Mission San Juan Capistrano, from 5:30 PM until 8:00 PM. A Live Nativity Presentation occurs from 6:15 PM until 7:00 PM at River Street/Los Rios Street. Holiday Face Painting occurs from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM on Verdugo Street, across from the Regency Theater. A Free Photo with Santa occurs from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Los Rios Park on Los Rios Street. A Free Kids Craft event occurs from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Los Rios Street.

Roman Kamienski, KG6QMZ
Silent Key

We are very sad to report that Roman Kamienski, KG6QMZ, passed away recently. He had been a member of the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) for the last 12 years. He suffered a rupture of a brain aneurysm and, after being in a coma for 3 weeks, regained consciousness and was moved to St. Jude Hospital in Fullerton. After a few days of step-down care, he was transferred to the rehabilitation unit. He had already stood at the bedside and was able to give his call sign to his wife when she asked. Unfortunately, the morning after his transfer to rehab he suffered a pulmonary embolism and was unable to be revived.

Roman participated in a May hospital drill. In his HDSCS blue vest, he served at the HEOC. He also assisted as an antenna team member, helping to complete the installation of amateur radio antennas at some of the hospitals.

OCRACES members got to know Roman during drills the last couple of years at the Army Reserve Base in Costa Mesa. Roman was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve, and invited OCRACES to participate in their annual drills by exhibiting the OCRACES van. Roman was involved with the Young Marines program, and OCRACES members were proud to give tours of the van to the Young Marines during the drills.

Roman was memorialized in a full military service held at the Evangelical Free Church in Diamond Bar on November 6th. A 21-gun salute was given at the conclusion of the service.

Roman was only 56 years old.
### December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 Weekly 40 m ACS Net</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7 OCRACES Holiday Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 Weekly 40 m ACS Net</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14 Weekly 2 m ACS Net &amp; Cooperative T-Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25 Merry Christmas!</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Five-Band ACS Nets</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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#### Upcoming Events:
- **December 7:** OCRACES Holiday Dinner, 1830, Ricardo’s Don José, 1230 E. Katella Avenue, Orange (no net or regular meeting)
- **December 14:** Cooperative T-Hunt on input of 2-meter repeater, 1920
- **December 25:** Christmas
- **December 28:** Five-band ACS nets (no Southwest ACS Frequency/ Radio test in December)
- **January 4:** OCRACES Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1930-2130
- **January 18:** Cooperative T-Hunt on input of 2-meter repeater, 1920
- **February 8:** City/County RACES & MOU Meeting, 840 N. Eckhoff Street, Suite 104, Orange, 1915-2130

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**County of Orange RACES Frequencies**

- **40 m:** 7250 kHz SSB (City/County/MOU Net—Saturdays, 1000 hours)
- **10 m:** 29.640 MHz output, 29.540 MHz input, 107.2 Hz PL
- **6 m:** 52.620 MHz output, 52.120 MHz input, 103.5 Hz PL
- **2 m:** 146.895 MHz output, 146.295 MHz input, 136.5 Hz PL*
- **2 m:** 147.480 MHz simplex
- **1.25 m:** 222.760 MHz output, 222.160 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL
- **70 cm:** 446.000 MHz simplex
- **70 cm:** 449.100 MHz output, 444.100 MHz input, 110.9 Hz PL (private)
- **23 cm:** 1287.650 MHz, 1287.675 MHz, 1287.700 MHz, 1287.725 MHz, 1287.750 MHz, and 1287.775 MHz outputs, ~12 MHz inputs, 88.5 Hz PL

*Primary Net—Mondays, 1900 hours

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**Mission Statement**

County of Orange RACES has made a commitment to provide all Public Safety departments in Orange County with the most efficient response possible to supplement emergency/disaster and routine Public Safety communications events and activities. We will provide the highest level of service using Amateur and Public Safety radio resources coupled with technology, teamwork, safety, and excellence. We will do so in an efficient, professional, and courteous manner, accepting accountability for all actions. We dedicate ourselves to working in partnership with the Public Safety community to professionally excel in the ability to provide emergency communications resources and services.

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**County of Orange RACES**

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It’s Where It’s @!

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Meet Your County of Orange RACES Members!

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Tom Tracey
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Randy Benicky
N6PRL

Roger Berchtold
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KC6RFC

Nancee Graff
N6ZRB

Ray Grimes
N8RG

Walter Kroy
KC6HAM

Martin La Rocque
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Fran Needham
KJ6UJS

Kenan Reilly
KR6J

Tom Riley
K6TPR

Brad Russo
KB6GPM

Joe Selikov
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Ken Tucker
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Tom Wright
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Robert Stoffel
KD6DAQ

Lee Kaser
KK6VV

“W6ACS ... Serving Orange County”